

**PATENT**  
**IBM Docket No. UK9-99-128**

**Listing of Claims (Including Status and Amendments):**

1 1. (Currently amended) Apparatus increasing flexibility for  
2 processing business data [processing] activities during runtime,  
3 said apparatus comprising:

4 plural activity instances applied for respective uses at  
5 runtime; and

6 a descriptor for each said activity instance which is  
7 [customizable uniquely] customized according to alternatives for  
8 runtime processing for each said activity instance;

9 wherein said descriptor includes parameters which are  
10 programmable at runtime for determining lifecycle behaviors of  
11 each said activity instance in accordance with the processing of  
12 the activity instance occurring at runtime, whereby lifecycle  
13 behavior may be customized for each activity instance during  
14 runtime.

1 2. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said  
2 descriptor is programmable to modify said lifecycle behaviors  
3 according to a use made of said activity instance.

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1 3. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said use  
2 of said activity instance is responsive to a request by a client.

1 4. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said use  
2 of said activity instance is responsive to a request by an  
3 activity instance.

1 5. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said  
2 descriptor is programmable to modify said lifecycle behaviors  
3 according to a position in a system hierarchy of said activity  
4 instance.

1 6. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said  
2 descriptor enables control of concurrency of activity instances.

1 7. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said  
2 descriptor enables control of re-creation of activity instances.

1 8. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said  
2 descriptor enables control of termination of activity instances.

1 9. (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said  
2 descriptor permits creation of an activity instance identifier.

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1 10. (Currently amended) A method for customizing ~~improving~~ the processing of business data  
2 ~~[processing]~~, activity[ies] instances respective of conditions occurring at runtime, said method  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 defining, in a descriptor, activity lifecycle characteristics that are  
5 customized respective of ~~[[the]]~~ predefined alternatives for processing ~~[[of an]]~~ each respective  
6 ~~[individual]~~ activity instance~~[[s]]~~ at runtime;

7 associating such a descriptor ~~[uniquely]~~ with said respective activity instance; and

8 using said descriptor to control a lifecycle of said activity instance  
9 according to the processing thereof at runtime, whereby lifecycle  
10 characteristics may be adjusted to correspond to the actual runtime  
11 processing of the activity instance [may influence lifecycle definition].

1 11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said  
2 descriptor is programmable to enable definition of varying  
3 activity lifecycle characteristics according to a use made of  
4 said activity instance.

1 12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said use  
2 of said activity instance is responsive to a request by a client.  
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1 13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said use  
2 of said activity instance is responsive to a request by an  
3 activity instance.

1 14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said  
2 descriptor is programmable to modify said lifecycle behaviors  
3 according to a position in a system hierarchy of said activity  
4 instance.

1 15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said  
2 descriptor enables control of concurrency of activity instances.

1 16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said  
2 descriptor enables control of re-creation of activity instances.

1 17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said  
2 descriptor enables control of termination of activity instances.

1 18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said  
2 descriptor permits creation of an activity instance identifier.

1 19. (Original) A computer program product comprising computer  
2 program instructions stored on a computer-readable medium for,  
3 when loaded into a computer and executed, causing the computer to  
4 carry out the steps of the method as claimed in claim 10.

1 20. (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim  
2 19, wherein said descriptor is programmable to enable definition

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3 of varying activity lifecycle characteristics according to a use  
4 made of said activity instance.

1 21. (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 20  
2 wherein said use of said activity instance is responsive to a  
3 request by a client.

1 22. (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 20  
2 wherein said use of said activity instance is responsive to a  
3 request by an activity instance.

1 23. (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim  
2 19, wherein said descriptor is flexibly programmable to modify  
3 said lifecycle behaviors according to a position in a system  
4 hierarchy of said activity instance.